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REMARKS

Claims 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 28-32, and 35, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 15, 16, 19-27, 33, and 34 have been cancelled above without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse these objections/rejections based on the following discussion.

I.   The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 11, 13, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yeager (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,190). Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Yeager in view of Sanschagrin et al., hereinafter "Sanschagrin" (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,540). Previous claims 7, 15, and 25 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Yeager in view of Della-Libera et al., hereinafter "Della-Libera" (U.S. Publication No.2003/0023609). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeager in view of Guthery (U.S. Patent No. 6,567,915). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeager in view of Smith et al., hereinafter "Smith," (U.S. Publication No. US2002/0167543). Claims 28, 29, 30, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Yeager in view of Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

A.   The Rejection Based on Yeager

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Yeager, and the other prior art references of record, do not teach or suggest the claimed process of "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by

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authorized users" as defined by independent claim 10. Further, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a process of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" as defined by claim 10. Thus, as explained in greater detail below, it is Applicants' position that none of the prior art of record teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claim 10.

More specifically, Yeager provides the ability to perform updates/inserts/deletes for only one row at a time via the edit panel shown in Figure 7 of Yeager. The claimed invention allows the commit of multiple rows at once (hundreds of thousands of rows, if desired) because the claimed invention updates the database using a worksheet "grid" form that "comprises multiple rows of data." Yeager provides the ability to import a large number of rows at a time, as does the claimed invention. However, the claimed invention enables users to make a variety of changes to their downloaded data, including imports as well as updates, inserts, and deletes, to form a cohesive unit on their local copy of data. The claimed invention can then choose to commit all of these changes multiple rows at once. Yeager, on the other hand, forces the imports to be processed as a separate, standalone unit as shown by Figure 7 of Yeager.

Further, Yeager does not address the problem of handling data errors that can occur when the server data has changed after the user has downloaded a copy to the local workstation. To the contrary, as defined by claim 10, the invention includes a step of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" to address the handling of data errors. There are numerous conflicts that can occur, to which the end user often wants to apply a set of rules for handling these conflicts. Yeager provides no method for handling data conflicts. The claimed invention on the other hand, provides methods in the form of "Commit Rules", which are central to the purpose and success of the invention. Yeager does not address the possibility of dynamically revising the update/insert/delete in the event of security violations, to utilize security views that may exist on the system.

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Yeager does not disclose "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data". The Office Action has responded with a reference to Yeager's disclosure and points specifically to Yeager's Figure 4 as comprising multiple rows. The Office Action also refers to Yeager column 12 which has the user updating and saving data.

However, Yeager's Figures 4 and 7 display a single row of data comprising of multiple fields. On the left is a list of field names. On the right is an entry area for a value associated with each field. Note, that when the layout is vertical in format, there can be one and only one value entered in the rightmost column for each field. In database terms, this layout represents a single row of data stored in a table which has 8 fields defined.

Barcode	
Partno	
Description	%Camera%
Location	
Status	
Remarks	

Yeager does not disclose a method for editing and updating multiple rows at the same time. Instead, Yeager discloses a method by which individual rows from the query result set must be copied to a special single-row edit area (Figure 7) and edited there as a single entity.

The invention provides the ability to retrieve and edit multiple rows of data in a horizontal format. The editable data would be represented in claimed invention as follows:

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Barcode	Part oo	Description	Location	Status	Remarks
320	Picturetel	VC Picturetel Camera	Bin 1	A	
340	Picturetel	VC Picturetel Camera	Bin 2	D	Needs Repair
521	Hitachi	Remote Control Camera	Bin 1	A	
etc					

6 Editable Fields in Each Row
Virtually limitless number of rows

Since Yeager's disclosures are limited to dealing with only 1 editable row at a time, there are many issues that he does not address and that are not obvious to one of ordinary skills. When dealing with updates of hundreds or thousands of rows, claimed invention must keep track of the original values in each row, as well as the commit-time versions of each row. It must evaluate which rows have actually changed, so that only the changed ones are committed (for performance reasons). And it must handle all data conflicts within the client version as well as between client and server, which is why the claimed commit rules were invented.

Thus, as shown above, Yeager does not teach or suggest the claimed process of "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by authorized users" as defined by independent claim 10. Thus, it is Applicants' position that none of the prior art of record teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claim10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Yeager does not anticipate the invention defined by independent claim 10. Further, dependent claims 13 and 17 are similarly patentable, not only because they depend from a patentable independent claim, but also because of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawn this rejection.

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B.   The Rejection Based on Yeager in view of Sanschagrin

The Sanschagrin reference is utilized for disclosing that the packaging of the worksheet grid can produce reports capable of summarizing information by selected groups such as comparison reports on the delta between two similarly structured tables. However, Sanschagrin is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is missed by Yeager as explained above. More specifically, Sanschagrin omits any teaching of "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by authorized users" as defined by independent claim 10. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claim 10 is patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Sanschagrin. Dependent claims 13 and 14 are patentable because they depend from a patentable independent claim, and also because of the features each of these dependent claims define. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

C.   The Rejection Based on Yeager in view of Della-Libera

The cancellation of claim 7, 15, and 25 has rendered this rejection moot. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

D.   The Rejection Based on Yeager and Guthery

The Guthery reference is utilized for disclosing partitioning the database into private and public databases. However, Guthery is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is omitted by Yeager as

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explained above. More specifically, Guthery does not "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by authorized users" as defined by independent claim 10. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claim 10 is patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Guthery. Dependent claim 18 is patentable because it depends from a patentable independent claim and also because of the features claim 18 defines. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

E.   The Rejection Based on Yeager and Smith

The cancellation of claim 27 has rendered this rejection moot. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

F.   The Rejection Based on Yeager and Helland

Helland discusses handling of client-server data issues in a manner that is built in to software system controls, and which may not be altered by an end user. The claimed invention provides a method for allowing each individual end user on the client to specify their own unique commit rules. It further allows each end user to alter these commit rules at any time of their choosing. The method for doing this is not provided in Helland and cannot be easily deduced from Helland by one of ordinary skills.

The combination of Yeager and Helland does not address the problem of handling data errors that can occur when the server data has changed after the user has downloaded a copy to the local workstation. To the contrary, as defined by claim 28, the invention includes a step of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" to address the handling of data errors. There are numerous conflicts that can occur, to which the end user often

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wants to apply a set of rules for handling these conflicts. Yeager provides no method for handling data conflicts. The claimed invention on the other hand, provides methods in the form of "Commit Rules", which are central to the purpose and success of the invention. Yeager and Helland do not address the possibility of dynamically revising the update/insert/delete in the event of security violations, to utilize security views that may exist on the system.

Thus, as shown above, the combination of Yeager and Helland does not teach or suggest the claimed process of "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by authorized users" as defined by independent claim 28. Nor does the combination of Yeager and Helland teach or suggest a process of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" as defined by claim 28. Thus, it is Applicants' position that none of the prior art of record teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claim 28. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that over the proposed combination of Yeager and Helland does not anticipate the invention defined by independent claim 28. Further, dependent claims 29, 30, and 35 are similarly patentable, not only because they depend from a patentable independent claim, but also because of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawn this rejection.

G.   The Rejection Based on Yeager, Helland, and Sanschagrin

The Sanschagrin reference is utilized for disclosing that the packaging of the worksheet grid can produce reports capable of summarizing information by selected groups such as comparison reports on the delta between two similarly structured tables. However, Sanschagrin is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is missed by Yeager as explained above. More specifically,

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Sanschagrin omits any teaching of "wherein said updating of said tabular data includes making cascaded mass changes to a set of related data across multiple tables" "wherein said updating of said database of said worksheet grid form includes allowing only selected tables, rows, and columns to be updated by authorized users" as defined by independent claim 28. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claim 28 is patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager, Helland, and Sanschagrin. Dependent claims 31 and 32 are patentable because they depend from a patentable independent claim, and also because of the features each of these dependent claims define. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Further, dependent claims 31 and 32 are similarly patentable, not only because they depend from a patentable independent claim, but also because of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawn this rejection.

H. The Rejection Based on Yeager, Helland and Della-Libera

The cancellation of claim 33 has rendered this rejection moot. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.
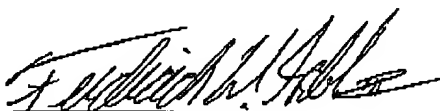
II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 28-32, and 35, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

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Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4-8-05

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